

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0907

May 11, 2010

Mr. Tony Hayward
Chief Executive Officer
British Petroleum
International Headquarters
1 St James's Square
London, SW1Y 4PD
UK

Dear Mr. Hayward:

The situation in the Gulf of Mexico has grown dire. While I urge your company to continue to make every effort to stop the flow of oil from the wellhead, BP must also now substantially increase assistance to Gulf coast states to address this environmental and economic disaster. Substantial financial assistance now is necessary to prevent and mitigate the imminent impact of oil entering my state's coastal waters, and to make whole those families, businesses and communities affected by this tragic incident.

One week ago, you sat in my office confident BP would rise to any challenge to ensure those dealing with the disastrous consequences of this oil spill would be properly and expediently compensated. Unfortunately, your efforts to stop the wellhead leak have not been successful. Accordingly, greater and more substantial action is required. BP must inject significant and appropriate upfront capital to the Gulf States so that they can properly prepare for this looming disaster.

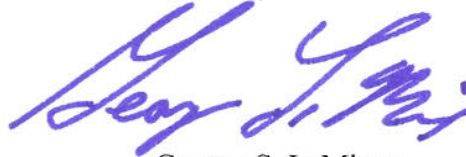
The impact of the approaching oil spill to Florida's shores could be dramatic. The more than 80 million visitors who traveled to the Sunshine State in 2009 did not come for tar-covered beaches or oil sheen covered waters. They came for the 1,200 miles of white sandy beaches that are the envy of the world. They came to take one of the estimated 35 million fishing trips that depart from Florida marinas each year that now are at risk due to unforeseen closures to the fishery.

Already, before even a single drop of oil hits our coastline, visitors are cancelling hotel reservations, which means every industry from bait and tackle shops to local family-owned restaurants, will see a decrease in business. At stake is our state's \$65 billion annual tourism industry.

It is time to get serious about the potential impact of this disaster. The \$25 million grant to the State is welcome, but insufficient. BP should be ready to open its coffers without hesitation to ensure states have immediate access to funds necessary to fully mitigate the effects of this manmade disaster. For example, \$1 billion should be made immediately available to the Gulf States by BP to begin to demonstrate your commitment to meeting your responsibility.

A substantial capital infusion from BP to the states is required immediately. State remediation and mitigation efforts cannot and should not wait. Florida's cities, counties, businesses and volunteers must begin in earnest the serious work of preventing oil from reaching its shores, and mitigating its impacts when it does. Only through a well funded and well organized effort will this be possible. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



George S. LeMieux
United States Senator

GSL/fcw

cc: Florida Congressional Delegation
Florida Cabinet